can be taken up by private sector and by Non-Resident Indians; and

(b) if so, what will be the Broad terms and conditions for executing these Projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The policy with regard to the generation and distribution of electricity is regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956. According to this Resolution, the generation and distribution of electricity falls under Schedule 'A' category of industries, the future development of which is the exclusive responsibility of the State. The Resolution does not preclude the possibility of the State securing the co-operation of private enterprise in the establishment of new Units when the national interests so require. As per this policy, Government have allowed replacement/expansion of units in the existing privately-owned power utilities. Permission for captive power units is accorded where the power requirement is substantial and continuous and reliable supply is necessary. State authorities are competent to permit captive power plants in the private sector upto a capacity of 25 MW. For captive power plants of capacities exceeding 21 MW, consultation with the Central Electricity Authority is also required.

Gas found on Orissa coast

928. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gas has been found out on the coastal region of Orissa;

(b) if so what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dose not arise.

Agreement between India and Soviet Union on coal industry

929. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether India and Soviet Union have agreed to sign a long term programme on cooperation in the coal industry;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the proposed agreement;

(c) whether under the programme the number of Indo-Soviet Coal Projects will be increased; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Soviet Union will assist India in regard to the Coal Projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) India and Soviet Union have signed a programme for cooperation in Coal Industry between the two countries over the period extending to 2000 AD. The programme envisages continuation of cooperation in the following areas :—

(1) design and construction of the projects already under collaboration,

(2) development of Indian coal industry through the introduction of advanced equipment and technonogy as well as the latest achievements of mning science and practice,

(3) expansion of geological exploration and prospecting for coal in some regions of India as well as in prospecting for coking coal in the southern part of Jharia deposits,

(4) continuing collaboration with Singareni Collieries Company Limited incuding elaboration of coal production development schemes in Godavari deposit,